

## Message Text

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21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 /049 W

----- 012846

R 301205Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3647

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, EAGR, PINT, SOCI, AF

SUBJ: NEW LAND REFORM LAW ANNOUNCED

1. WITH MUCH FANFARE, AFGHAN PRESIDENT DAOUD ANNOUNCED IN JESHYN DAY ADDRESS PROMULGATION OF A NEW LAND REFORM LAW TO BENEFIT SMALL FARMERS AND LANDLESS PERSONS. NO DATE SET FOR ISSUANCE OF NEW LAW, WHICH WILL BECOME EFFECTIVE ONE YEAR FROM TIME IT APPEARS IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE, BUT IMPLICATION GIVEN THAT THIS WOULD BE IN NEAR FUTURE. PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF THE MEASURE, AS ENUNCIATED BY MINISTER OF FINANCE IN SUBSEQUENT RADIO INTERVIEW ON JULY 26, WILL BE LIMITATION ON SIZE OF LAND HOLDINGS (VARYING FROM 20 TO 40 HECTARES PER FAMILY--IE, GOVERNMENT WILL TRY PREVENT CIRCUMVENTION OF LAW BY SPREADING HOLDINGS AMONG FAMILY MEMBERS--DEPENDING ON TYPE OF LAND; PRIORIT Y DISTRIBUTION TO LANDLESS PERSONS, TENANTS, AND SMALL FARMERS; COMPENSATION TO PRESENT OWNERS FOR EXPROPRIATED HOLDINGS; AND GRADUALISM IN IMPLEMENTATION (UP TO 15 YEARS EXEMPTION FOR LARGE, EFFICIENT AGRO-BUSINESS CONCERNS). VOLUNTARY COLLECTIVES AND COOPERATIVE WOULD BE PERMITTED. HOLDINGS COULD NOT RPT NOT BE FRAGMENTED

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BY INHERITANCE.

2. COMMENT: SINCE THE GOA ALREADY HAS POWER TO EXPROPRIATE AND REDISTRIBUTE LAND, THE NEW LAW IS PROBABLY AS MUCH A POLITICAL AS IT IS AN ECONOMIC MEASURE. THE PUBLICITY IT IS BEING GIVEN, EVEN BEFORE ITS PUBLICATION, SUGGESTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO GET MAXIMUM POLITICAL MILEAGE. OF IT. THIS APPROACH COULD BACKFIRE, HOWEVER, IF EXPECTATIONS ARE RAISED WHICH THE GOW CANNOT FULFILL OR IF THE TRIBALS SEE THE MEASURE AS A THREAT TO THEIR CUSTOMS REGARDING LAND OWNERSHIP AND INHERITANCE.

3. FULL DETAILS AND COMMENT FOLLOW BY AIRGRAM.  
ELIOT

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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